DS-4B

# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

MESSAGE CENTER

VZCZCMLT205ILN591 ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~
MULT 79519
ACTION DIA:
DISTR CJCS DJS J3:(04) J5(02) NMCC MRPN(01) NMIC SECDEF:
ASD:ISA(10) :DIA(15) SWS(01)
SECSTATE WASH DC
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WHITE HOUSE WASH DC
MCCC CMC
CSAF WASH DC
CNO WASH DC
CSA WASH DC
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TRANSIT/111345Z/111500Z/001:15TOR3451452
DE RUESBAA #1193 3451415
ZNY ~~CCCCC~~
P 111345Z DEC 75
FM (b)(3):10 USC 424
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC
INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
BT
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L/WHINTEL/NOFORN~~ 1193 DEC 75
THIS IS IR (b)(3):10 USC 424
1. AR
2. MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT (U)
3. N/A
4. 1975, DEC 9
5. 1975, DEC 9
6. (b)(3):10 USC 424
7.
8.
9. 1975, DEC 10
10. N/A
11. (b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(6)
12.
13.
14.
15. 1. ~~(C/WHINTEL/NOFORN)~~ MORE INDICATIONS HAVE SURFACED SUGGESTING THE POSSIBILITY OF A MILITARY COUP IN THE NEAR FUTURE (SEE IR (b)(3):10 USC 424 SEVERAL SOURCES WHO HAVE HERETOFORE BEEN NONCOMMITTAL REGARDING THE POTENTIAL OUSTER



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OF THE PERON ADMINISTRATION ARE NOW OPENLY SUGGESTING THAT IT MIGHT TAKE PLACE VERY SOON. ONE RELIABLE SOURCE STATED THAT IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THE PERON REGIME MAY BE REMOVED BY THE END OF THE YEAR AND PROBABLY NO LATER THAN THE BEGINNING OF MAR 76. [redacted] SOURCE IF IT WAS TRUE, AS MANY HAVE SAID, THAT THE ARMY AT PRESENT HAS NO POST-COUP CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR THE GOVERNMENT. HE LAUGHED AND STATED THAT A COMPLICATED PLAN WAS NOT REQUIRED, SUGGESTED THAT ARMY WAS WORKING ON THE PROBLEM, AND ALLUDED TO THE FACT THAT BG AZPITARTE AND HIS STAFF WERE INVOLVED IN THESE ACTIVITIES. GEN AZPITARTE HAS CREATED A SIZEABLE ORGANIZATION SINCE HIS APPOINTMENT AS THE SECRETARY OF THE GENERAL COMMAND SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. (THE SECRETARIAT REPORTEDLY RESPONDS DIRECTLY TO THE ARMY COMMANDER ON POLITICAL/MILITARY AFFAIRS). IT IS REPORTED THAT HE COULD NOT WAIT FOR THE TERMINATION OF THE PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE (SIMILAR TO NWC) AT THE END OF THE YEAR AND HAD ONE OF ITS MEMBERS PREMATURELY REASSIGNED TO HIS STAFF PRIOR TO GRADUATION. Sec. 3.3(b)(1)

2. ~~(C/WNINTEL/NOFORN)~~ SOURCE WAS ASKED WHO MIGHT LEAD A MILITARY GOVERNMENT SHOULD MRS PERON BE OUSTED. HE STATED THAT THE MOST PROMISING CANDIDATE WAS MAJOR GENERAL (RETIRED) ALCIDES LOPEZ AUFRANC (LOPEZ AUFRANC RECENTLY APPEARD ON A TV TALK SHOW AND SPOKE OUT STRONGLY OF THE MILITARY'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MOVE IN THE EVENT THE GOVERNMENT FELL INTO CHAOS.) SOURCE STATED THAT A SECOND POSSIBILITY IS BG LUCIANO MENENDEZ, CURRENT III CORPS COMMANDER. GEN MENENDEZ HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ARMY'S COIN OPERATION IN TUCUMAN, SINCE THE DEPARTURE OF BG DELIA LAST AUGUST. HE SUGGESTED AS A DARK HORSE CANDIDATE, BG ANTONIO BUSSI, COMMANDER OF THE X INFANTRY BRIGADE IN PALERMO. GEN BUSSI IS ON TAP TO COMMAND THE V INFANTRY BRIGADE IN TUCUMAN NEXT MONTH. BUSSI IS REGARDED AS AN INTELLIGENT AND COMPETENT OFFICER BY THE SOURCE BUT IS CONSIDERED A THIRD CHOICE BECAUSE OF HIS AGE (HE IS A VERY JUNIOR GENERAL OFFICER).

3. ~~(C/WNINTEL/NOFORN)~~ [redacted] Sec. 3.3(b)(1) [redacted] OF HIS CONCERN OVER THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION. SOURCE, LIKE MANY MILITARY, HOPES THAT THE ELECTIONS IN 1976 WILL COME TO PASS, BUT DOUBTS THAT THE PERONISTS CAN SURVIVE UNTIL THAT TIME. HE COMPARES THE CURRENT REGIME TO A SINKING SHIP IN HEAVY SEAS WITHOUT A CAPTAIN OR CREW. HE DESCRIBES THE ADMINISTRATION, AS WELL AS THE CONGRESS AS A MOB OF UNPRINCIPLED, CORRUPT POLITICIANS WHO LACK A SENSE OF



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RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD THE NATION. HE BELIEVES THAT THE MILITARY DOES NOT REALLY WANT TO TAKE OVER THE GOVERNMENT, BUT MAY BE FORCED BY EVENTS TO DO SO.
4. ~~(C/WNINTEL/NOFORN)~~ COMMENT: NERVOUSNESS IS INDEED INCREASING AS MILITARY AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER SECTORS SPEAK OPENLY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A "GOLPE". UNTIL RECENTLY THE ARMED FORCES SEEMED FIRM IN THEIR RESOLVE TO LET THE POLITICIANS PLAY OUT THEIR HANDS. HOWEVER, CONTINUED ALLEGATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS OF CORRUPTION IN THE PERONIST GOVERNMENT ARE TAKING THEIR TOLL. THUS, DESPITE THE DECISION TAKEN AT THE DEC 5 MEETING NOT TO INTERVENE IMMEDIATELY, AS THE PATIENCE OF THE MILITARY GROWS SHORTER THE POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE GOVERNMENT INCREASES.
THIS MSG HAS BEEN COORD WITH EMBASSY.
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[redacted] Sec. 3.3(b)(1)

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